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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIJING 021713

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SUBJECT: MFA SAYS PM ABE VISIT WILL SMOOTH COURSE OF
JAPAN-CHINA RELATIONS BY ENDING FREEZE ON SUMMITS

REF: A. BEIJING 20679

[1](#)B. TOKYO 5822

[1](#)C. TOKYO 5940

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Daniel Shields.
Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's October 8-9 China visit marks the renewal of Japan-China leadership summits and will therefore smooth the future course of bilateral relations, MFA officials told us. The October 8 joint press communiqu  for the PM Abe visit marked the first time China and Japan signed off on a common bilateral statement on DPRK issues. China did not agree, however, to Japan's proposal to address in the joint press communiqu  Japan's desire for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council or the issue of DPRK abductions of Japanese. President Hu will meet PM Abe at November's APEC Leaders Meeting and Premier Wen will meet PM Abe in connection with December's ASEAN-related meetings. China and Japan are already planning for a Hu visit to Tokyo some time in 2007 and a Wen visit to Japan some time after the Hu visit. Tokyo gave Beijing two-hours advance notice of its announcement of new sanctions on the DPRK. The MFA denied reports that China plans to send to Tokyo an envoy to discuss the DPRK's claimed nuclear test. END SUMMARY.

Summits Will Smooth the Handling of Bilateral Issues

[1](#)2. (C) PM Shinzo Abe's October 8-9 visit to Beijing will significantly improve the tone of the relationship and the manner of dealing with bilateral issues, MFA Counselor for Japan Affairs Hong Xiaoyong told Polmincouns October 12. Although disputes will surely continue, PM Abe's visit ends a five-year freeze on leadership summits connected with former PM Koizumi's visits to Yasukuni Shrine, he said. Hong noted that Beijing and Tokyo will be better able to manage a range of issues now that their leaders are talking directly. Discussions over resources in the East China Sea are expected to improve. The October 8 joint press communiqu  for the PM Abe visit marked the first time China and Japan signed off on a common bilateral statement on DPRK issues, Hong said. Similarly, Beijing and Tokyo's cooperation in areas such as energy, intellectual property protection, the environment and high technology exchange had been lagging pending resolution of the "political obstacles" that had prevented leadership Summits, Hong stated, adding that this cooperation should improve now.

[1](#)3. (C) China did not agree to include in the joint press communiqu  some of the topics that Japan wanted included in the communiqu , according to Hong. History issues were

addressed in general, but some details of bilateral discussions on the Yasukuni Shrine issue were too sensitive for such a communiqué, he said. In meetings with President Hu, PM Abe raised Japan's desire for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. China's position is that it is too soon to say what type of UN reform will occur or whether China could support Japan's bid, Hong said. Similarly, Japan raised the issue of abductions of its citizens by the DPRK, but China felt that inclusion of such a Japanese "domestic" issue in the joint communiqué would be "unbalanced." China sees the nuclear issue as much more important than the abductions issue. China commented positively in the joint communiqué on the fact that "the Japanese side stressed that Japan had been pursuing and would continue to pursue the route of a peaceful country more than 60 years ago." Hong said the MFA is presenting this language to those in China with anti-Japan sentiments as a way of encouraging Japan to avoid militarism.

Leaders' Meetings at APEC, ASEAN-related Meetings

¶4. (C) Chinese and Japanese leaders agreed to meet frequently in future, Hong said. President Hu will meet PM Abe during the November APEC Leaders' Summit in Hanoi. Premier Wen will meet PM Abe at the December ASEAN-related meetings in Cebu. China, Japan and South Korea will hold a formal Trilateral Meeting chaired by Premier Wen on the margins of the East Asia Summit in Cebu. China and Japan are already planning for a Hu visit to Tokyo some time in 2007 and a Wen visit to Japan after the Hu visit, Hong said.

¶5. (C) In addition to leaders' meetings, Chinese Communist

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Party International Department head Wang Jiarui will travel to Tokyo later this month for a political party exchange, while Japanese scholars will visit Qingdao next week for a meeting of the non-governmental Japan-China Friendship Committee for the 21st Century, headed by China Reform Forum scholar Zheng Bijian and Fuji Xerox chairman Yotaro Kobayashi.

DPRK: Tokyo Notifies PRC on DPRK Sanctions

¶6. (C) Tokyo gave Beijing two-hours advance notice before it announced its new sanctions on the DPRK in response to North Korea's claimed nuclear test. Hong denied reports that China plans to send a special envoy to Tokyo on the issue of the DPRK's claimed nuclear test.
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